

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application, of which claim 1 has been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled. No new claims have been added.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 64-40548 (hereafter, "**JP '548**") or JP 5-68650 (hereafter, "**JP '650**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted in the concise English description of **JP '548** attached to the IDS filed October 20, 2005, **JP '548** "fails to disclose ...an angle between a rough surface and a transfer film conveyed over the rough surface is defined by a diameter of the transfer film taken-up by a spool," as in the present invention.

JP '650 is described in paragraph [0003] of the specification of the instant application as admitted prior art, and realizes a "high reflectance ratio...by applying an evaporated film or a plating film to the reflecting surface."

Both of these references fail to disclose a diffuse reflecting surface, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. However, "diffuse" can be considered a relative term, and the diffuse reflectance characteristic is provided by a rough surface, as recited in claim 5, which is allowable subject matter, according to the Examiner.

Accordingly, claim 5 has been canceled and its limitations have been added to claim 1.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 11-240219 to Kyogoka et al. (hereafter, "Kyogoka et al."), and he has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '548, JP '650 or Kyogoka et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,010,259 to Hadley (hereafter, "Hadley") or U.S. Patent 5,144,331 to Amano (hereafter, "Amano").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted above, the Examiner has indicated that the limitations of claim 5 contain allowable subject matter, which limitations have been added to claim 1 via this amendment.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-4, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/710,551
Response to Office Action dated April 27, 2006

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP


William L. Brooks

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 34,129

WLB/ak

Atty. Docket No. 040353

Suite 1000

1725 K Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 659-2930



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure

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